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Communications and Information

AFRC WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK

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OPR: HQ AFRC/SCPI (Ms Lisa Woodson)

Certified by: HQ AFRC/SC (Col Martha Maurer)

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1. Purpose. This directive establishes policy for the use of wireless local area networks (LAN) within Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC). It provides guidance on the limited circumstances under which new wireless solutions are implemented within AFRC, as well as identifies the areas of interest that must be resolved prior to a wireless solution being placed into operation. It applies to all functions and levels of command throughout the Air Force Reserve.

2. Because wireless networks are more expensive to install and have a lower throughput, they are generally not considered as an alternative to traditional wired networking within AFRC. However, the following are some special situations where drivers beyond cost and performance may dictate the use of a wireless solution as primary network service:

2.1. For areas with limited numbers of users requiring frequent rewiring of the primary workstations, such as those with flexible office layouts or frequent workgroup realignments. In these cases, a wireless solution would avoid the recurring costs of rewiring for each move or change and could result in a lower overall life cycle cost than a wired solution.

2.2. For areas where wiring is either impossible or extremely inconvenient to install. This would especially apply to many manufacturing and flightline areas where users' work locations are not physically conducive to the installation of wired workstations. It could also apply to temporary relocation areas that do not have existing wiring.

2.3. For augmenting traditionally wired buildings with limited wireless capabilities, perhaps to support temporary increases in users or mobile users requiring laptops.

2.4. To support system architectures which specify wireless LAN solutions, such as Cargo Movement Operational System (CMOS) bar code readers and Integrated Maintenance Data System (IMDS) Portable Maintenance Aids (PMA).

3. Like all information systems/networks, wireless LANs must be evaluated according to the Air Force Certification and Accreditation process and granted designated approving authority (DAA) approval prior to being placed into operation. Address and resolve all appropriate issues related to technical standards, frequency allocations, licensing, and encryption before requesting DAA approval.
4. The following responsibilities and authorities are established:
 - 4.1. Organizations desiring to implement a new wireless solution will work with their local AFRC SC (or equivalent) and base STEM-B to determine whether the requirement justifies a wireless solution and to resolve appropriate issues prior to implementing any wireless solution.
 - 4.2. Organizations with an existing wireless solution must ensure it is operating with DAA approval. If not, discontinue operation until DAA approval is granted.
 - 4.3. The AFRC base or wing communications and information community, or equivalent, evaluates requirements for appropriateness of a wireless solution and assists organizations in resolving the related issues.
 - 4.4. The HQ AFRC Communications and Information Directorate (SC) provides guidance and assistance as needed.
 - 4.5. The base STEM-B provides technical advice and assistance as required on wireless issues.
5. See [Attachment 1](#) for measure of policy success.

JAMES E. SHERRARD III, Maj Gen, USAF
Commander

Attachment 1

AFRC WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORKS

